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○ ISSUE 10 | ○ VOLUME 6

# Community *notes*

## Holiday Observances

Howard County Government offices, courts, animal shelter, senior centers and the landfill will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of the Labor Day holiday. The County's [holiday "slide" schedule](#) will be in effect for trash, recycling, yard trim & food scraps collection. Click [here](#) to read the full media advisory.

## Residential Runoff Workshop

Rain and heavy storm events cause runoff to carry sediment and pollutants into the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA). Invasive plant species have been introduced to the area, outcompeting local vegetation and degrading wildlife habitat. The health of the MPEA affects the Patuxent River and the wider Chesapeake Bay. And, as a MPEA neighbor, simple voluntary changes in your yard can make a difference.

You are invited to attend the workshop on Monday, September 21, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Hawthorn Center, 6175 Sunny Spring, Columbia. To register, email [tess@chesapeakedata.com](mailto:tess@chesapeakedata.com) by Monday, September 7. The first 30 residents to reply will receive a free rain barrel.

## Columbia Archives is Ready for Your Visit!

The move to the new location, 6310 Hillside Court, off Stevens Forest Road in Columbia is complete. To visit, please use the building's main entrance. The Archives are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; however, appointments are encouraged. Please call 410-715-6781 for more information.

## Greeting

It looks like summer's almost over. With Labor Day and the start of the high school football season can fall be far behind? Enjoy!

*Smaykey*

## Regional Transportation Planning

As part of the outreach/public hearing process of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC), representatives from BMC will present a long range transportation plan, Maximize 2040, to the Howard County Public Transportation Board (PTB) on Tuesday, September 15, 2015, Columbia/Ellicott Rooms, George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City.

Materials will be available for viewing in the lobby beginning at 6:00 p.m. The presentation to the PTB will begin at approximately 7:10 p.m. and the public hearing will conclude at 8:00 p.m.

Visit the [BMC website](#) to read/download the draft plan, for information about future hearings and the instructions for submitting comments.

## Student Essay Contest

The Howard County Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission announces its 2015-2016 Essay Contest. This year's essay question asks students to reflect on the following quote of Dr. King's and to recall a time when Dr. King inspired you to conquer your fear and keep moving forward:

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Middle and High School students must be Howard County residents and submit an individual essay. The essay must be typed in double-spacing, include the student's name, address, telephone number, email address, name of school and grade. Middle school students should write an essay of 500 – 750 words; high school students should submit an essay of 750 – 1,000 words. Essays will be judged on content, connection to Dr. King's work, spelling, grammar and sentence structure. Students with disabilities may submit entries using other media: posters, pictures, et cetera (with the student's name, address, telephone and school information attached). Winners will be notified by email.

Essays must be postmarked or delivered by 5:00 p.m., November 13, 2015 to MLK Student Essay Contest c/o Howard County Office of Human Rights, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 239, Columbia MD 21046. Essays may be emailed to [SubmissionsMLK@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:SubmissionsMLK@howardcountymd.gov).

Contest winners' names and schools will be posted on the Commission's webpage. The prizes for the contest are:

High School Students: 1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$250, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$200

Middle School Students: 1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$250, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$200, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$150

Prizes will be presented at the MLK Celebration on Sunday, January 17, 2016, 2:00 p.m. at the Smith Theatre, Howard Community College.

If you have questions, please contact Mary Toth at the Office of Human Rights, [mtoth@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mtoth@howardcountymd.gov).

## Robinson Nature Center 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House

Come celebrate the Robinson Nature Center's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday, September 20 from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. with a special open house featuring live animal presentations, guided nature walks, face painting, crafts and shows in the planetarium. Join staff members at noon for a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the grand opening of the Center's new "Nature Place" outdoor discovery area for kids. For more information, visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/RNCOpenhouse.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RNCOpenhouse.htm).

## Community Policing Survey

The Citizens' Advisory Council of the Howard County Police Department asks the community to participate in a research survey. This brief survey will help the Police Department develop a five-year strategic plan. Visit [www.tinyurl.com/HoCoCitizenSurvey](http://www.tinyurl.com/HoCoCitizenSurvey) to take part.

## Run Your Way Through Downtown

The 2nd annual Discover Downtown Columbia 5K and Fun Run, right in the heart of Downtown Columbia takes place on Sunday, September 27 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The 5K-course goes across the stage at Merriweather Post Pavilion where the band Heads Up will be playing!

Two other live bands will be on hand for the event – Sons of Pirates at Race Start for pre-race festivities and Fren-Z at Race Finish for a post-race concert.

Also at Race Finish, Clyde's will be hosting a Beer Garden and Whole Foods Market a "Fueled by Whole Foods" area with free beer and food for participants. (Beer and food will be available for sale for friends and family.) [Register](#) now for this fun and unique race in Downtown Columbia!

## Commemorate the Harriet Tubman School

You are invited to join the Harriet Tubman Foundation of Howard County, Inc. as they celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the closing of the Harriet Tubman High School. The celebration takes place on Saturday, September 19, 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Ridgely's Run Community Center, 8400 Mission Road, Jessup. Tickets are \$20.00 per guest and proceeds benefit the Foundation.

Enjoy food, fun, entertainment and journey back in history. They will also have a yellow school bus to interested persons to tour the Harriet Tubman Building from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. From 1949 to 1965, Harriet Tubman High School was the only school in Howard County that Black students could attend until September 1965 when county schools were integrated.

## Helpful Information

Pens, pencils and markers are **not recyclable** in curbside recycling. While these contain plastic and metal that seem recyclable, the items are a mix of many different materials that are difficult to separate. Also, due to their small size, the items tend to get lost at the processor.

Visit Howard County's [What Should I Do With...?](#) website for details about mail-in recycling programs for crayons and markers.

## Village News

The Town Center Community Association, Inc. will host Back to School Family Bingo on Friday, September 11, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Historic Oakland. The event is free for Town Center residents, guests who live in other communities are asked to purchase the \$5 ticket. The hosts offer pizza, drinks, dessert and bingo cards. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. This event is limited to a maximum of 50 guests. Please register at [www.ColumbiaTownCenter.org](http://www.ColumbiaTownCenter.org).

Town Center Community Association hosts Afternoon Serenade at Vantage Point Park on Saturday, September 12, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. with live music by Tres Amigos+! You are welcome to bring lawn chairs and picnic food to Vantage Point Park for this free event. Light refreshments will be provided by Town Center Community Association.



The River Hill Community Association and the Coalition Halting Obesity in Children Everywhere (CHOICE) are co-sponsoring a FREE, fun, family event on Saturday, September 12, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Claret Hall, 6020 Daybreak Circle, Clarksville. Learn more about ways to enhance overall health and safety. There will be opportunities to speak with a variety of health providers and take advantage of free bone density screenings, blood pressure readings, BMI determinations, vehicle safety information, digital fingerprinting, comprehensive child/senior ID kits, scavenger hunt for kids, inflatable, face painting, prizes, giveaways and more! For more information, call 410-531-1749.



The Wilde Lake Community Association, Inc.'s Rainbow Theatre presents "Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall" with Pam the Kindersinger & Rascal on Friday, September 11 at 10:00 a.m. at Slayton House Theatre. Enjoy this interactive show at a special ticket price of \$3 per ticket. For more information, call 410-730-3987 or email [events@wildelake.org](mailto:events@wildelake.org).

Columbia Families in Nature in collaboration with the Columbia Association and the Village of Wilde Lake host an event on Sunday, September 13 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Wilde Lake Park during which participants will plant native species in an area that is in need of restoration. Planting service days are a great combination of fun, learning and working as a team. Everyone can feel really good about their work and come back to see the benefit. Families must register through the CFIN website, <http://www.columbiafamiliesinnature.org/>.

## Happening Near You...

The Columbia Festival of the Arts' Fall Festival, British Invasion, takes place October 2 – 4. Tickets are selling well; purchase tickets [online](#) through the Festival's website or by visiting its page on [EventBrite](#).



Howard County's Office of Human Rights has partnered with PFLAG, (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Columbia-Howard County chapter, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights and Promised Land Film to host four additional community showings of the award-winning documentary, "The New Black."

Directed, produced and written by Yoruba Richen, "The New Black" tells the story of the historic fight to win marriage equality in Maryland and charts the evolution of this divisive issue within the black community. The film has been honored by a number of national film festivals, including AFI Docs, UrbanWorld Film Festival and the Los Angeles Film Festival.

Each screening will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by a 30-minute audience discussion on the issues raised in the film, facilitated by Office of Human Rights Administrator Rev. Dr. Barbara Sands. The dates and locations of the screenings are:

Thursday, September 10 at the North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road in Laurel;

Thursday, September 17 at The Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way in Columbia;

Thursday, October 15 at the Roger Carter Community Center, 3000 Milltowne Drive in Ellicott City; and

Thursday, October 29 at the Howard County Library System Central Branch, 10375 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia.

Admission to each screening is free and all are invited to attend.



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